

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A bacterial or yeast transformant into which has been incorporated a lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence, wherein the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence encodes a foreign protein having lactate dehydrogenase activity and pyruvic acid substrate affinity that equals or exceeds the pyruvic acid substrate affinity of the pyruvate decarboxylase inherent in the host organism,

wherein a single copy of the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence has been incorporated such that it is under the control of a genomic pyruvate decarboxylase gene promoter on the host chromosome, or such that it is under the control of a structural and functional homologue of the genomic pyruvate decarboxylase gene promoter, which replaces the genomic pyruvate decarboxylase gene promoter on the host chromosome, and wherein the pyruvate decarboxylase gene on the host chromosome is replaced with the single copy of the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence.

2. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to Claim 1, wherein the foreign protein is a bovine-derived lactate dehydrogenase or its homologue.

3. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to Claim 1, wherein the foreign protein is a protein comprised of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or its homologue.

4. (Currently Amended) The transformant according to Claim 3, A bacterial or yeast transformant into which has been incorporated a lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence, wherein the lactate dehydrogenase coding sequence encodes a foreign protein having lactate dehydrogenase activity and pyruvic acid substrate affinity that equals or exceeds the pyruvic acid substrate affinity of the pyruvate decarboxylase inherent in the host organism,

wherein a single copy of the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence has been incorporated such that it is under the control of a genomic pyruvate decarboxylase gene promoter on the host chromosome, or such that it is under the control of a structural and functional homologue of the genomic pyruvate decarboxylase gene promoter, which replaces the genomic pyruvate decarboxylase gene promoter on the host chromosome, and wherein the pyruvate decarboxylase gene on the host chromosome is replaced with the single copy of the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence,

wherein the foreign protein is coded by the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:

3.

5. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to Claim 4, having the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4 as the DNA sequence for coding the foreign protein.

6. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to claim 1, wherein the host organism belongs to the Saccharomyces family.

7. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to claim 1, wherein the host organism is Saccharomyces cerevisiae.

8-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A transformant of the Saccharomyces family into which a single copy of a lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence has been incorporated, wherein the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence encodes a bovine-derived lactate dehydrogenase or its homologue and has been incorporated such that the single copy of the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence is under the control of a genomic pyruvate decarboxylase 1 gene promoter on the host chromosome of the Saccharomyces family, or such that the single copy of the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence is under the control of a structural and functional homologue of the genomic pyruvate decarboxylase 1 gene promoter, which replaces the genomic pyruvate decarboxylase 1 gene promoter on the host chromosome, and wherein the pyruvate decarboxylase 1 gene on the host chromosome has been replaced with the single copy of the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence encoding the bovine-derived lactate dehydrogenase or its homologue.

17. (Previously Presented) The transformant according to Claim 16, wherein the host is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

18. (Previously Presented) A lactic acid manufacturing method comprising a process for culturing the transformant described in Claim 1, and

a process for separating lactic acid from the cultured product obtained in said process for culturing the transformant.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (New) A transformant of the *Saccharomyces* family into which a single copy of a lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence has been incorporated, wherein the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence encodes a bovine-derived lactate dehydrogenase or its homologue and has been incorporated such that the single copy of the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence is under the control of a genomic pyruvate decarboxylase 1 gene promoter on the host chromosome of the *Saccharomyces* family, or such that the single copy of the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence is under the control of a structural and functional homologue of the genomic pyruvate decarboxylase 1 gene promoter, which replaces the genomic pyruvate decarboxylase 1 gene promoter on the host chromosome, and wherein the pyruvate decarboxylase 1 gene on the host chromosome has been replaced with the single copy of the lactate dehydrogenase gene coding sequence encoding the bovine-derived lactate dehydrogenase or its homologue,

wherein the bovine-derived lactate dehydrogenase or its homologue is encoded by the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3.

21. (New) The transformant according to claim 20, having the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4 as the DNA sequence for encoding the bovine-derived lactate dehydrogenase or its homologue.